however, on my part, always endeavoured to make them ſenſible of the reverſe. With this view I never buy a top in the ſhops, but always agree with the turner to furniſh me with a good one at an additional price. I never pay for it till I have tried it in his preſence; and when there has been any fault, I have pointed it out to him: by theſe means I am never diſappointed.

I come now to ſpeak of the peg in another light, not as it concerns the light or heavy ſpinning of the top, but merely as in point of convenience. The value of the peg is always eſtimated by the number of acorns that ſurround it, and this, in a large peg, makes it come very expenſive. With your leave, my little pupils, I will tell you, that ſo far from allowing the acorns to add any value to the top, I cannot help thinking but that it leſſens it. I have ſeen many a good top deſpiſed and rejected, becauſe it had what is called by ſome the *ſmuggler's*, by others more properly, the *quaker's* peg; and whenever I ſaw this, I always bought it at a very eaſy price.

I will

I will now give you my objections againſt the acorn pegs. When the top is in full ſpin, theſe acorns muſt act upon every thing that touches them like ſo many files in motion; and there is hardly an artiſt, who plays much with acorn tops, but carries many marks of violence between his fingers, which he received from the acorns of his peg, I cannot, for my part, conceive what objections there can be to the plain peg, ſince every one muſt be ſenſible that no inconvenience can attend it. I hold it indeed good, that there ſhould be one acorn at the head of the peg, which may ſerve as an ornament, and prevent its making its way too far into the head. It is a very difficult matter to perſuade little boys out of any thing they conſider as a piece of finery; but ſuch I wiſh to leave to themſelves, and never deſire to own them for my pupils.—I ſay a plain peg above all things!

I come now to the laſt point of conſideration, the ſtring, concerning which I have only to obſerve, that, if the top is ſmall, thick whip-cord will be the beſt for uſe; but, if the top is of the largeſt ſize, ſtrong

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